

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the Office action dated February 17, 2004 are respectfully requested.

Applicants thank the Examiner for an indication that claims 10, 15, 17, 19, 23, and 34-26 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim.

I. Amendments

Claims 1-9, 11-14, 16, 18, 20-22, 24-29, and 30-33 stand canceled. Applicants reserve the right to file a continuing application directed to these claims.

Claims 10 and 23 are rewritten in independent form.

Claim 19 is amended to remove the term "membrane."

No new subject matter has been added by way of these amendments.

II. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-9, 11-14, 18, 20-22, 24-29, and 31-33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly anticipated by Hoon *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,472,375).

Claims 1-9, 11-12, 16, 18, 20-22, and 30-33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly anticipated by Ramani *et al.* (*PNAS*, 95:11886-18890, 1998).

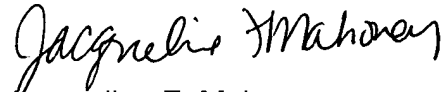
Claims 1-9, 11-14, 16, 18, 20-22, 24-29, and 30-33 stand canceled.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that the claims pending in the application are in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is therefore respectfully requested.

If in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at (650) 838-4410.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: April 13, 2004

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